No. 81 G. ~~12.~~ 13

No. 199.
Walnut

An Essay

On

Gastrules

Read March 22
1826

By

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of

Virginia

1825.

Gastritis

Is an inflammation of the Stomach, and has been divided into two species Phlegmonous & Erethematic - The former of which I design treating only; as the latter arises chiefly towards the close of bad & malignant Fevers marking the certain approach of death, and is unaccompanied by any of the symptoms of general inflammation -

Phlegmonous inflammation of the Stomach; or Gastritis, is produced by all of the causes of inflammation, as external contusions, acrids, of various kinds taken into the stomach, large and excessive draughts of cold liquors when the body is much heated, over distention from indigestible food. irritating and intoxicating drinks. It may also arise from various acrimonies generated in the body as frequently happens in various ulcerous affections of the

Fauces and Oesophagus; Violent exercise. A blow on the Epigastrium. A wound of the stomach or adjacent parts.

It may likewise follow inflammation of contiguous parts, as the Oesophagus, Duodenum &c. Like the other Phlegmasiæ, it may be excited by various causes of sudden plethora, particularly that brought on by the suppression of hemorrhagies or other habitual evacuations, an example of which came under my immediate observation in Southampton County, Virginia last summer. It was the case of an elderly Gentleman who had many years previously been subject to excessive periodical hemorrhoids, which being spontaneously suppressed, at one of its usual periods, congestion of the stomach supervened, and terminated in a most incurable Gastritis, and though the most vigorous means were early resorted to, it marched on with rapid strides to his dissolution.

Symptoms.

A violent & acute pain in the stomach with a sense of burning heat. The pain is not confined to the region of the stomach, but extends as low down as the false ribs. & often shooting to the back. great soreness to the touch. & excessive irritability of the stomach, with inordinate vomiting much aggravated by ingesta, pulse frequent, small, & contracted, more or less hard & sometimes intermitting, distressing thirst. restlessness. anxiety. and a continual tossing of the body. delirium etc. At an advanced stage there is great tension about the Epigastric region. great and sudden depression of strength. which generally threatens syncope. & in many cases fainting actually takes place. pulse small, hard, & corded: contracted & not very quick. Unless checked it advances very rapidly. and with great aggravation of the symptoms. the patient cannot be raised from a horizontal

position without fainting. the extremities become cold, with extreme debility of the capillary circulation. short and interupted respiration. cold clammy sweats. hiccup, & often dark coloured matter is discharged from the stomach similar to black vomit in Yellow Fever. some delirium. distention of the abdomen with flatus. These symptoms are the precursors of gangrene or showing the actual existence of it.

Occasionally there are anomalous symptoms, as violent pain in the great toe as in Podagra. pain now and then appears in the groin. Professor Physick remarked during the prevalence of Yellow Fever in Philadelphia, that in Yellow fever (which is confessedly a gastric disorder) there was sometimes a violent pain in the pudendum of Females. that it was always indicative of extreme danger, and in every case in which he noticed it. the patient died.

excessive rigidity of the muscles of the arm sometimes occurs; and not unfrequently paralysis of the arm. To these may be added dyspnoea. The patient complains of a difficulty of breathing which depends upon the increased state of the stomach, rendering the descent of the diaphragm painful. The degree of dyspnoea attending on gastritis must in a great measure depend on the part of the stomach inflamed. The nearer the seat of the complaint is to the diaphragm the more will the descent of the latter effect it. A most unaccountable symptom which sometimes occurs in this complaint is the hydrophobia.

This disease sometimes makes its attack in a much more insidious manner, as was evidently exemplified in a case spoken of by Dr Jackson in his clinical lectures in the Alms House this summer.

Thus was the case of a young lady in the country, who was attacked with great irritability of the stomach, and flatulency, the attending Physician supposing it a case of dyspepsia prescribed Tonics, bitters etc. the disease continued to grow worse till the excessive irritability of her system brought on a daily paroxysmal chills & fevers. It was then treated as common intermittent fever, consequently the insidious & almost imperceptible inflammation continued to prey on the system, till the symptoms became so alarming as to induce the friends of the sufferer to call on Doctor Jackson whose powers of discrimination disclosed to him immediately the real seat and nature of the disease. he pronounced it a case of Gastritis which prognostic was received both from the history of the case and the appearance of some of the most prominent symptoms

of that complaint. This case evinces how nearly allied some of those insidious attacks of Gastritis is with Intermittent fever. and the absolute importance of discriminating them; which may be readily done by the irritability of the Stomach, tenderness to the touch, the recurrence of the paroxysm in the afternoon &c &c

Prognosis –

The long and unabated continuance of the urgent symptoms, extreme irritability of the Stomach. great prostration of strength – disposition to syncope. cold extremities. Cold clammy sweats – feeble look – distressed countenance pulse extremely feeble – hiccups – dark or coffee ground vomit. and distention of the epigastric & umbilical regions. are generally the precursors of death –

But when there is general mildness of the

symptoms, with no evident alleviation upon the application of our remedies as a subsidence of pain, composure of the stomach, with a full soft pulse, we may with some degree of certainty calculate on a favourable issue.

Diagnosis

There is no complaint with which by a person acquainted with its symptoms, Gastritis can be confounded. In cramps & flatulent pains of the stomach, the pulse is generally natural, or nearly so, nor is the latter accompanied with the sudden prostration which attends Gastritis. In those there is often no vomiting, and it is very rarely so constantly excited by ingesta. the increase of pain after receiving any thing into the stomach is much less remarkable in flatulent pains & cramps than in gastritis. In the former the pain is greatly in-

creased by pressure whereas in the latter it frequently mitigates it - In Spasms of the Stomach there is such a sense of contraction & suffocation that the voice is often suspended while in Gastritis it is more free & the cases of the patient are often piercing -

Inflammation of the abdominal muscles over the Epigastric region has been by some compounded with Gastritis - this may be readily distinguished by the absence of the instability of the Stomach - by the increase of pain in a greater degree by motion - that is those motions in which those muscles are concerned - the state of the pulse in the former case seems different, if changed at all instead of being exceeding feeble as in gastritis, it is strong as in most of the Phlegmasiæ - It may be distinguished from inflammation of the Duodenum by the pain & vomiting not succeeding immedia

[illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
stomach in the [illegible].—

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
a considerable [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of the
stomach having a degree of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] the [illegible]. They [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
partial thickening of the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
of the [illegible] part the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] over the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
ulceration [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].—

For the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
the system it is evident that an [illegible]
[illegible] of this [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
consequences, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

of pain, generally [illegible] by [illegible]
sense of weight and an uneasy [illegible]
is followed by [illegible] exacerbations which [illegible]
decidedly assumes the form of acute cancer. The [illegible]
gen. is an abscess in the stomach [illegible] of peritonitis,
and generally terminates fatally [illegible] it opens
into the stomach in which case the pus may
be discharged by vomit or stool, the [illegible] from new
tissue. There are instances on record in which
the inflammation caused adhesions as was the
case with the late Emperor of [illegible] in which
the stomach adhered to the liver. Adhesions
may also form with the parietes of the abdomen,
the abscess breaking externally. [illegible]
case in which the contents of the stomach
were discharged through an opening [illegible].
The outbreak of gangrene is known by an
increased intensity of the symptoms and by
their not yielding to [illegible] —

Treatment —

[illegible]

Blood letting is [illegible] the most [illegible] remedy on which we must rely. There is no case in which it is carried to a greater extent than pneumonia. As soon as the symptoms show themselves, we must have recourse to venesection & draw off a pint, or more if there is congestion on the opposite side. If they recur, may be taken from a pint & a half or two pints. If the pulse is very low, the use of the lancet is to be [illegible] & the pulse is sensible [illegible].

It is a remarkable fact that in contradistinction to the [illegible] to the inflammation

the general system is depressed and as we
abstract blood the powers of the system will
be displayed and the inflammatory nature
of disease will be lessened.

Some eminent practitioners particularly the
European school are in the habit of bleeding
in this affection nothing can be more rational
or judicious, as we thereby evacuate the powers of the arterial
without injuring the capillary system which is
the immediate seat of the disease & prevent
after mortification spread and ultimately saving life by
means of secondary bleeding rather than the injudicious
practice of wounds or by scarification and cupping,
the resorted to of necessity.

The next among the important is blisters
there is no case, in which blisters are of
more use or more local relief than in this
question. We should apply them as nearly
as possible over the immediate seat of

must then [illegible] be increased till them dose are as large as the nature of the case will allow. Large doses are [illegible] more [illegible] than small ones, as we generally [illegible] in the [illegible] in their [illegible]. They should not however be [illegible] till the system is reduced by venesection after which they frequently act like a charm. These remedies may be assisted by fomentations to the abdomen.

With regard to evacuations of the alimentary canal — the extreme irritability of the stomach frequently precludes the possibility of administering any purgative medicines. Consequently our only resource is large emollient enemata, which should be early resorted to and frequently repeated till the stomach becomes sufficiently composed to bear some cathartic medicine. Castor

oil, or Calomel may then be administered. the latter is to be preferred as it is less nauseous, better retained in the stomach and not more irritating.

The saline medicines form an excellent class of laxatives in this affection, of all of which [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] is the best [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] others are agreeable and conveniently allaying the inordinate vomiting, by establishing the natural peristaltic motion.

If any irritation remain about the stomach it is necessary to resort to the saline draughts [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. In some cases sinapisms over the region are resorted to with singular advantage. they create pain, thereby [illegible] [illegible] from the stomach.

The [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

valuable properties of the invaluable tribe of the malvaceæ medicos & last of the demulcent the tendency & prominent in this class we may say the spirits of turpentine. This article should answer, be used in the almost continued time the use in the increase the self-respect in justification it should be discontinued in which when made time in frequently acts side effects described all in the alarming symptoms, with constitutional & permanent disorder.

This article may in cases of extreme prostration be combined with the decoction of cinchona as used by Dr Coighman & Pearson in the Yellow Fever in Dr O. Thers.

In cases where suppuration exceeds the inflammatory stage, we must support the system with stimulants and

a medicinal dose.

In its most severe forms it resists all remedies as the case should be treated with and external pleuritic should be employed [illegible] immediate recourse to the lancet.

Inflammation of the stomach may arise from the introduction of corrosive articles. As it is of very rare occurrence I pass merely into the treatment of this species of gastritis. I shall only [illegible] with merely remarking that the offending matter should as speedily as possible be evacuated by active emetics, or Dr. Physick's stomach tube and as the nature of the case is ascertained counteragents or antidotes should be administered.

The antiphlogistic regimen should

be observed with the strictest scrutiny, both during the disease and convalescence. when the patient is able to retain any food, nothing should be allowed but what is of the lightest and most aperient nature, and in very small quantities; every thing hard, or acrid should be studiously avoided. The patients apartment should be kept at a uniform temperature, rather cool than otherwise —

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